Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The following claims encompass the subject matter of Claims 52-70 of the parent application, and have been renumbered to conform to the instant divisional application.

Listing of Claims:

~~52.~~1. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for forming continuous metal articles of indefinite length, comprising:

an outlet manifold configured for fluid communication with a source of molten metal; and

a plurality of outlet dies in fluid communication with the outlet manifold and configured to form a plurality of continuous metal articles of indefinite length, with the outlet dies each further comprising:

a die housing attached to the outlet manifold, with the die housing defining a die aperture configured to form the cross sectional shape of the continuous metal article exiting the outlet die, with the die housing defining a die passage in fluid communication with the outlet manifold for conveying metal to the die aperture, and with the die housing further defining a coolant chamber surrounding at least a portion of the die passage for cooling and solidifying molten metal received from the outlet manifold and passing through the die passage to the die aperture.

~~53.~~2. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the die passage of at least one of the outlet dies defines a divergent-convergent located upstream of the corresponding die aperture.

~~54.~~3. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the die passage of at least one of the outlet dies includes a mandrel positioned therein to form an annular shaped cross section metal article.

~~55.~~4. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, further including a plurality of rolls associated with each of the outlet dies and positioned to contact the formed metal articles downstream of the respective die apertures for frictionally engaging the metal articles and applying backpressure to the molten metal in the manifold.

~~56.~~5. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein at least one of the die passages of the outlet dies defines a larger cross sectional area than the cross sectional area defined by the corresponding die aperture.

~~57.~~6. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein at least one of the die passages of the outlet dies defines a smaller cross sectional area than the cross sectional area defined by the corresponding die aperture.

~~58.~~7. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the die passage of at least one of the outlet dies defines a larger cross sectional area than the cross sectional area defined by the corresponding die aperture, and further including a second outlet die located downstream of the at least one outlet die, with the second outlet die defining a die aperture having a smaller cross sectional area than the corresponding upstream die aperture.

~~59.~~8. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~58~~7, wherein the second outlet die is fixedly attached to the upstream outlet die.

~~60.~~9. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the die housing of each of the outlet dies is fixedly attached to the outlet manifold.

~~61.~~10. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the die housing of each of the outlet dies is integrally formed with the outlet manifold.

~~62.~~11. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the die aperture of at least one of the outlet dies is configured to form a circular shaped cross section metal article.

~~63.~~12. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the die aperture of at least one of the outlet dies is configured to form a polygonal shaped cross section metal article.

~~64.~~13. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the die aperture of at least one of the outlet dies is configured to form an annular shaped cross section metal article.

~~65.~~14. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the die aperture of at least one of the outlet dies has an asymmetrical cross section for forming a metal article having an asymmetrical cross section.

~~66.~~15. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the die aperture of at least one of the outlet dies has a symmetrical cross section with respect to at least one axis passing therethrough for forming a metal article having a symmetrical cross section.

~~67.~~16. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~66~~15, wherein the die aperture of at least one of the outlet dies has an asymmetrical cross section for forming a metal article having an asymmetrical cross section.

~~68.~~17. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the die aperture of at least one of the outlet dies is configured to form a continuous plate or continuous ingot.

~~69.~~18. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the continuous plate or continuous ingot has a polygonal shaped cross section.

~~70.~~19. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim ~~52~~1, wherein the apparatus includes a single outlet die having a die housing defining a die aperture and a die passage in fluid communication with the outlet manifold, and further defining a coolant chamber at least partially surrounding the die passage, with the die aperture configured to form the cross sectional shape of the continuous metal article.